

Appln No. 09/695,900
Amdt date April 9, 2007
Reply to Office action of March 14, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-15, 17-31, and 33 were pending in this application when last examined by the Examiner, of which claims 12, 13, and 30 have been allowed. Via this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 10, 24, 26, and 28, canceled claims 23, 25, 27, and 29 and added claims 34-39. The amendments find support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 10-15, 17-22, 24, 26, 28, 30-31, 33-39 are respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 14, 15, 21, and 23-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,845) in view of Srinivasan et al. (U.S. Publication No. 20010023436). Claims 22 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl et al. in view of Srinivasan and further in view of Proehl et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0131356A1). Claims 11, 17-20, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl et al. in view of Srinivasan et al. and further in view of Dunn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,648,824). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite "determining by the receiver whether the video object in the video frame is visible to a viewer of the television broadcast during a particular shot." (Emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that the disclosure in Wistendahl of a receiver that can identify user selections of hot spots does not teach or suggest the claimed receiver that determines "whether the video object in the video frame is visible to a viewer" based on the claimed "visibility bits." Specifically, just because hot spot pixel coordinates exist for an object does not necessary imply that that object is "visible to a viewer of the television broadcast."

In addition, claim 10 has been amended to recite "visually highlighting the video object during the particular shot in response to the user actuation of the user input device, wherein the visually highlighting is automatic based on the one or more visibility bits and not in response to a user pointing or selecting the video object." (Emphasis added). The Examiner contends that

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Wistendahl discloses that an object may be highlighted "when a pointer of a pointing device is positioned over the hot spot." (Office action, p. 3, 1st par.). However, as argued in Applicant's last response, nothing in Wistendahl teaches or suggests that the hot spots in Wistendahl are highlighted. If the Examiner continues to disagree, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to point out what portion of the disclosure in column 8, lines 40-54 of Wistendahl discloses highlighting of an object when a pointer is positioned over the hot spot.

Even if, assuming, *arguendo*, that Wistendahl discloses highlighting of hot spots, any such highlighting would be in response to a user pointing or clicking on the hot spot. (See, e.g. Col. 6, lines 33-38). In contrast, amended claim 10 states that "the visually highlighting is automatic based on the one or more visibility bits, and not in response to a user pointing or selecting the video object." Accordingly, claim 10 is now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 26 has been amended to include limitations that are similar to the limitations of claim 10 which make claim 10 allowable. Accordingly, claim 26 is also in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 10.

Claims 11, 14-22, 24, 27-29, 31, and 33 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain. Specifically with respect to claims 24 and 28, these claims have been amended to recite that "a plurality of the video objects visible to the viewer during the particular shot are each automatically highlighted in sequence based on the one or more visibility bits without the user pointing or selecting each of the plurality of the video objects." (Emphasis added). Nothing in Wistendahl nor any of the cited references teaches or suggests this additional limitation. Accordingly, claims 24 and 28 are also in condition for allowance for this additional limitation.

Claims 34-39 are new in this application. These claims are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain. Specifically, claims 34 and 37 recite "automatically changing the video object in the video frame that is visually highlighted." Claims 35 and 38 recite that the "automatically changing of the video object is not dependent on a user pointing or selecting the video object." Claims 36 and 39 recite that the "automatically changing of the video object is in response to a

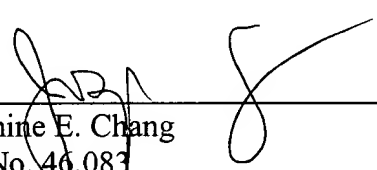
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passage of a predetermined period of time." None of the cited references teach or suggest these limitations. Accordingly, claims 34-39 are also in condition for allowance of their added limitations.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 10-15, 17-22, 24, 26, 28, 30-31, 33-39.

Respectfully submitted,
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